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America's Task

An Address

by

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"The Need of the Hour";

An American Merchant Marine.



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America's Task

Before the war the exports of our country were a little over two billions of dollars, and at that time the total exports of the world were estimated at twenty billions of dollars, so that our share then was a trifle over ten per cent of the total. During the present fiscal year our exports have jumped to about \$6,000,000,000, and in all probability the total world's exports have declined since the war. The figures are not available, so it is safe to assume that we are now furnishing over thirty per cent of the world's exports. To do this vast business we have been operating on peak load for some time, working night and day, and we have also called out of the public schools many thousands of children under employment age who ought to be left in school until they become mentally and physically equipped for industrial service. Chicago contributed over 25,000 of these children last year.

**Exports of
the World**

Now what is about to happen? A million of the flower of the country, young men between the ages of 21 and 30, inclusive, will shortly be called into service, and many more may be drafted as this war proceeds. On top of that, from five to ten billions more money will be expended in this country this year than last by this nation in war preparations, and much will be spent by the allies, to whom we expect to loan large sums of money.

**War
Preparations**

Now comes our test. Are we going to be equal to it? And how do we propose to meet this new situation? These are the questions that we alone must answer. Will we meet it by permitting uncertainty and fear to creep in, by drawing in our lines, by curtailing production, by enforcing the policy of false economy? This is exactly what we have been doing in this country since our declaration of war. Where, I ask, is our business acumen, our boasted courage, our farsightedness? Do we intend to inform the world that is appealing to us for food and clothing and the necessities of life, that we are unwilling to assume this responsibility, or that we are unequal to this task?

Our Test

I do not mean to belittle in the least those brave men who offer their lives in defense of their country, or those conscripts, who, when their names are called, step forward courageously to take their places in the ranks in this battle for the rights of humanity—but this war will develop other heroes, industrial heroes, such men as now comprise our National Council of Defense and their many associates who are neglecting important and profitable business interests to serve their country without pay, and other heroes, who, by their self-sacrifice and self-denial will place themselves in the class of patriots that will stand out on an equality with those who do the fighting.

**Industrial
Heroes**

**War of
Economic
Forces**

I am satisfied the American people will not fail in this crisis. They realize that the eyes of the world are upon them, they understand that the hearts of the world appeal to them. They realize that this is not a war of numbers, if it were, the allied powers, including this nation, could easily exchange two men for every one of the central powers and still have men to spare. They realize it is not a war of battleships, because those who are fighting on our side outnumber our opponents three to one in number of battleships. *It is a war of moral, financial, and economic forces.* The moral issue we can safely leave to God, Who is with us in this fight for the liberty of humanity. Financially, we could exchange a five dollar bill for every dollar bill of our opponents, and still have a large reserve. The great force that will win or lose this war is the economic one, and the war will be of long or short duration in proportion as this nation is able to supply its soldiers and those of its allies promptly with efficient weapons of warfare, with good wholesome food, with proper clothing, shelter, and all the other appurtenances of an efficient fighting force. We must profit by the experience of those who have been engaged in battle during the past three years, and use that experience to the best advantage of this country, for their trials have taught the lesson of full preparedness and of efficiency.

**Self
Denial**

To accomplish all this may entail many sacrifices, much self-denial and hard work, so I ask the American people, Are you ready for the test? If your answer is, Yes, then we have won this fight for humanity. It may mean that some of us may have to go barefoot that the soldiers may be shod, some supperless to bed that the soldiers may be fed. No one can tell at this time how sorely we may be tried, but first, last, and all the time there can be but one thought uppermost in our minds—no matter what privation we must suffer, no matter what self-denial we must practice, the soldiers who are in the field of battle, risking their lives for us, must be denied nothing that we can give them.

Our Duty

Now, if we are ready, our first duty is to subscribe for the Liberty Bond loan and any subsequent loans, if it be necessary to make them. We must loan our money freely to the government. The ten million young men who registered on the 5th day of June must stand ready to fill up the gaps of those of our brave fellowmen who may fall in battle, and they must be ready to answer the call as fast as more men are required at the front, and we who stay at home must be prepared to fill up those places left vacant in the industrial ranks. We must take the men and women first from the places where they can be best spared, because our slogan must be, "No diminution in production." Every man or woman, rich or poor, must be ready and

anxious to take his or her burden and carry it through this struggle. There can be no exceptions to this rule. Slackers are better off dead than alive, because the finger of contempt will be forever pointed at the man or woman who fails his country in this crisis, and besides, the nation cannot afford to support any man who is unwilling to do his bit toward the production of this country.

The children who are in school must not be permitted to leave school until they have arrived at a proper age, for posterity must not be robbed of its rightful heritage, young men and women, physically and mentally able to take up the struggle for life, when the time arrives for them to take their places in the industrial world. We must burn the fires of industry to the high sky. We must sow every acre of available land, we must make up stocks of everything that will be needed. We must not wait for the demand, we must make up reserve stocks, for everything that was required before we declared war will be needed soon and in much greater quantity than before.

**Save the
Children**

We must make a complete survey of the nation at once, and a place must be marked on the chart where can be employed every man or woman, young or old, strong or physically handicapped, as fast as such person is needed. We must conserve every scrap of material, every ounce of food and every bit of human energy. Our charities will not be able to raise enough money to take care of the usual demands, because there will be heavy calls upon us from other sources which are now equally as important. We must therefore put some of those thousands of physically handicapped men and women who are willing and able to work, where they may be useful. Many of these unfortunates are now supported by the charities, but have always been willing and anxious to work. They want to preserve their self-respect. They have never been given the right opportunity, so we must find out what work is best suited for these handicapped people, for every hour's work will add that much to the country's production and make their burden and ours so much lighter. This experience, which will be a very valuable one, will enable us to put those of our fellowmen who are wounded or crippled, in employment after the war, and in that way we will again conserve mankind and give to those brave soldiers who have been unfortunate an opportunity to retain their places in the industrial ranks.

Survey

There was a fallacy in this country up to quite recently that men past 45 years of age, although physically and mentally able to work, were unfit for work, and hence they were consigned to the scrap heap. That was exploded in the city of Chicago and in other cities, and thousands of men who formerly walked the streets in the vain search for work, willing and anxious to work, are now employed,

**Conservation of Man
Power**

so that no one, young or old, is exempt from service, whenever it shall be required.

About a year ago the Congress passed a bill known as the Shipping Bill. This bill created a shipping board with broad powers, and empowered the government to issue bonds for \$50,000,000 for the purchase or leasing of ships. This board is now working in conjunction with ex-Gov. Goethals of Panama, and in all probability three-quarters of a billion dollars will be expended under the direction of this board within the next two years for ships and the probability is that within the next year we will have a fleet of merchant ships of about five million tons, as great as Germany's before the war, so that while the war is on, these ships will be used to carry the products of this country to our allies and to the neutral nations, and immediately after the war is over this great oversea fleet will be used by this nation to build up its foreign business in every quarter of the globe. New trade routes will be opened, and trade will surely follow the flag. The rates for transportation will undoubtedly be as low as those made by any other nation, and there will be no discrimination in future against the American shipper, but on the other hand, he will be favored, for these ships hereafter, that carry the products of our mines, factories and farms to all parts of the world, will be owned by American citizens, manned by American seamen, and will sail under the stars and stripes.

**Shipping
Bill**

We are now keyed up to our greatest efficiency. We are now a world nation. We shall always need a world's trade. We are the richest nation in the world. We have the greatest natural resources, and we are undoubtedly the most resourceful nation, mechanically. We have more to sell than any other nation, and the world will always need what we produce. It is only a question of price and transportation, and we shall be able to meet both of those conditions in a satisfactory manner. So why even think for a moment that the end of the war will disturb our business? It will unquestionably be greater than ever, if we are prepared to take care of it.

**America's
Future**

All of these matters I have outlined to you are easy of accomplishment if we are all willing to do our share and are all ready to make any sacrifice that is required. When we shall have completed all this—and we shall not be satisfied with anything less—then shall we have won the fight for the liberty of humanity, for the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and in the words of Christ Jesus, shall be established peace on earth, good will toward men.

**What
Accomplish-
ment Means**



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